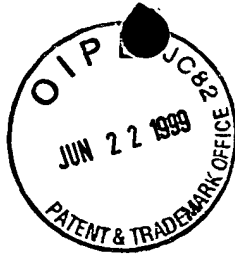


SON-0432



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3

In re patent application of

Kazunori OZAWA

Serial No.: 09/302,397

Group Art Unit: 3681

Filed: April 30, 1999

Examiner: Unknown

For: SPEECH CODING APPARATUS AND SPEECH DECODING
APPARATUS

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

JUN 23 1999

GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 through 1.99 and pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants respectfully bring the following documents, listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. The relevance of the Nakamizo reference is set forth in the patent application in the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

SON-0432

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to
Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham", written in a cursive style.

Michael E. Whitham
Registration No.: 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Whitham
Intellectual Property Law
Reston International Center
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive
Suite 900
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 391-2510